

CARRIER PIGEONS WILL BE TRAINED FOR WAR SERVICE

Men at Camp Dodge Who Have Had Experience in Care of Birds Are Being Sought.

MAJOR EASTMAN ISSUES CALL

Feathered Tribe Will Become Members of Signal Corps of Selective Army Force.

(Special to The Argus.)

Camp Dodge, Iowa, Dec. 3.—"The dove of peace is a fine bird, isn't he? But the pigeon of war is to have an important place in training given national army men at Camp Dodge. Fellow at the cantonment are going to find out, pretty soon, just how necessary these birds are in time of war. Major Clyde L. Eastman, division signal officer, wants all men who know anything about the training of carriers to report to him at once. For the birds are to be members of the signal corps, and must start their drilling before long.

The use of carrier pigeons never has been so extensive as during the present war, Major Eastman says. In every war, these little birds have played their parts, but never until the world war, covering such vast areas and including so many countries, have there been so many carriers used as message bearers. Training in the use of carrier pigeons is to be given in every training camp of the United States, and the importance of this branch of instruction will be emphasized.

Birds Can "Get Through."
"Carrier pigeons often bring important messages through artillery fire and gas clouds, when no other means of communication can be used," Major Eastman says. "The birds fly high and escape the gas, and are invaluable in emergencies as bearers of valuable information."

The major says that every field signal battalion should have at least three men in charge of pigeons, and that telegraph battalions should have one man to look after these birds. The pigeons are kept in stations until released for flight, and lofts are established to which they return following flight.

They go through regular training, too, just like soldiers. It takes about six weeks to train the pigeons before they can be flown from the trenches, and but a few days to train men to care for the birds.

Must Have Reserves.
There always must be a reserve of pigeons, too, to allow for casualties. Usually the signal corps keeps about three times as many birds as are desired in the trenches at any one time. In this way, they have two days' rest in the loft for every two days in the trenches. Tired birds, and those ill-served for, may fail to deliver messages, and could prevent victory, Major Eastman says. So great care is taken of these little message-bearers. They are carried from place to place in stock baskets, but must be taken from these baskets as soon as possible, for they suffer from confinement. During gas attacks their baskets are enclosed in chemically-treated covers, so that they do not suffer from the poison.

Every pigeon station is allotted to a definite commander, as a battalion or company commander. He is responsible for messages sent, and for the care of the carriers. He must use judgment, and must not send the birds out except when absolutely necessary. They are reserved for emergencies, and are used only when all other means of communication are cut off.

The pigeons fly at a rate of about twenty-five miles an hour, and at a distance of about four hundred feet in the air. Their longest flight is about three hundred miles.

MACHINE GUN IN WAR.

French Front—German appreciation of the value of the machine gun in modern battles was apparent at the very beginning of hostilities in 1914 and the most recent developments in their infantry formations give testimony of ever extending reliance on this weapon for the defense of the front line.

Each German infantry regiment will be provided with no fewer than 24 of these weapons, whose manipulators are formed into a separate company, and besides these each company is to be furnished with six light rapid fire guns, altogether making a formidable equipment. This is an enormous increase over the number provided at the beginning of the war, when each regiment of infantry of the active army and its reserve possessed only six of these guns.

Besides the regimental machine guns, special companies have been formed with the title of "Maschinengewehr-scharf-schuetzen-Abteilungen." These operate separately from the battalions of infantry in attacks. They are composed of groups of six machine guns each, and three of these groups as a rule work together. There are altogether over two hundred of these groups and their number is rapidly increasing. They came first into action during the battle of the Somme and they were engaged also in the battles round Verdun.

All the efforts of the Germans to find an effective portable machine gun or automatic rifle such as that possessed by the French and British troops appear to have been successful, and although such weapons have been brought into action on several occasions they have quickly disappeared.

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ANOTHER FLAG IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE



This interesting study shows a French maiden adding the flag of the United States to the line of battleflags of the allies, while Sammy watches on.

YOU MUST BE COMMISSIONED OFFICER TO WEAR LEATHER PUTTEES AT CAMP DODGE

(Special to The Argus.)

Camp Dodge, Iowa, Dec. 3.—This might be called "The Law of the Leggings."

It's the story of how the division order that enlisted men may not wear leather puttees came to be issued.

Noncommissioned officers, privates in certain organizations and motorcycle drivers have been accustomed to wear the leather leggings, which are a part of the uniform of commissioned officers.

They say that clothes make the man. Anyhow, a soldier in a long overcoat and puttees fairly well resembles an officer, especially in the eyes of a rookie. When the motorcycle drivers were saluted, they saluted in return, thoroughly enjoying the situation. The rookies didn't know the difference.

But there is a whole regiment of regular army men, besides several noncoms, and when they saluted other privates in leather leggings in the belief that they were officers, it didn't make these vets any happier to learn their mistake. At least, that's the gossip at camp.

Anyway, the order has been issued that any enlisted man who wears leather puttees is subject to arrest and court martial.

The soldiers in the Four Hundred Fourth telegraph battalion who were almost all formerly employed by the New York Telephone company received a big Thanksgiving box from the company.

If there are any authors among the officers of the Negro regiment at Camp Dodge, they could write a whole book about the sayings and doings of their men.

More stories are told about the Alabama soldiers than about the men in

the rest of the combined regiments.

For instance, there is the long, lean, weary soldier who received a check from home, cashed it, and immediately took it over to the canteen.

First, he bought a nickel's worth of chewing gum; then he walked to the other end of the counter and bought a five-cent cigar. Next he went back and purchased a nickel's worth of candy. He kept this up until the clerk grew angry.

"See here, what do you mean?" demanded the latter. "If you're going to buy so much stuff, why don't you get it all together and pay me for the lot instead of making me run around the room this way?"

The Negro looked up patiently. "Well, yuh see, boss, I'm gettin' a nickel's worth at a time because I hands you a nickel and then I can count the change. That way I knows yuh can't cheat me."

It takes a lot of tact and discretion to make a good orderly.

Orderlies must know how to pacify touchy superior officers, how to take care of motorcycles, automobiles and horses, and how to deliver important messages.

They mustn't even get angry, or laugh, when they see something humorous about their superior officers. Especially the orderlies who take care of the horses must use good judgment.

If you were holding a horse—a big, high animal—for an officer while he tries to climb up into the short stirrups without betraying the fact that he had never ridden a horse before, you'd probably want to laugh, wouldn't you? Especially if the steed should be spirited and rear suddenly, so that his rider hung dangling in midair.

But if you were an orderly you wouldn't laugh.

HIGH CLASS MEN GIVEN POSITIONS

Illinois Free Employment Office Is Not Exclusively for Unskilled Labor.

STATEMENT IS MADE BY RINCK

Points Out in Monthly Report That Bureau Is Not Confined to One Grade.

The Illinois free employment office in Rock Island places men in high grade positions as well as unskilled labor, according to a statement made by Superintendent Fred W. Rinck in connection with his monthly report today. His statement follows:

"In answer to the many critics that the Illinois free employment office furnishes only employment to unskilled labor, the report for the month of November will prove conclusively that this office has filled many positions to high class tradesmen, mechanics, accountants, clerks, etc., at good salaries ranging from \$75 to \$200 per month.

"Men from all sections of the United States, representing 20 states, also London, Canada, New Zealand, Philippines, Cuba and Mexico, have applied at this office for work.

"It is the aim of every employee connected with this office to keep in touch with every employer in this community and when a skilled or unskilled laborer, accountant, clerk,

etc., applies for a position to get in immediate communication with the employer in an effort to place the applicant in a position he or she seeks.

"This office has also of late, since the influx of many strangers to Rock Island and Moline, become a bureau of information, which is cheerfully given by every attaché of the office. We have also lent our assistance to many in securing rooming accommodations. Many a high class tradesman has left the city on account of being unable to find suitable lodging. Any citizen having a spare room or rooms for light housekeeping will perform a patriotic duty for his country in keeping men in the cities as they will be able to do their bit at the Rock Island arsenal where they are so sorely needed. If any having such accommodations, this office will gladly receive the information."

Monthly Report.
The report of business done during the month of November at the employment office is as follows:

Applications for help	3,742
Applications for work	2,330
Positions filled for men	1,902
Positions filled for women	182
Total positions filled	2,082

SELL WORK OF ART FOR WAR CAMP FUND

On exhibition in connection with the art display at the Davenport library is a beautiful painting, the work of the eminent artist, J. Lars Hostrop, who has donated it for the benefit of the Young Men's Christian association war fund. The painting, therefore, will be sold, and the proceeds contributed to the noble purpose desired by the artist.

URGES MEMBERS ATTEND MEETING

It Is Requested That Every One Connected With The Local Chapter Be Present.

OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED

Representatives of Other Branches Will Speak on Work Already Accomplished.

The annual meeting of the local chapter of the Red Cross will be held at the Rock Island club tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The president again urges every member to be present, as officers for the ensuing year will be elected and very important business matters discussed. Members of different branches of the society will be present and will make addresses on the work that the Red Cross has done throughout the country. Committees will be appointed for the various duties that must be performed. In general it is an important event and every person who can possibly attend is asked to do so.

The Red Cross work rooms, which are in the State bank building, have been placed in a way that will give the workers more space in which to perform their tasks. Tables have been all set together and the officers' desks located in a separate portion of the room. The wool and yarn will

hereafter be passed out over a counter and in other words, the local chapter is introducing a system into its work, which will enable it to do a great deal more in a shorter time.

The local chapter has been urged by state headquarters to rush all work and for every member to do her utmost to get the material to the men in need.

EIGHTH SCOUT TROOP WILL BE ORGANIZED

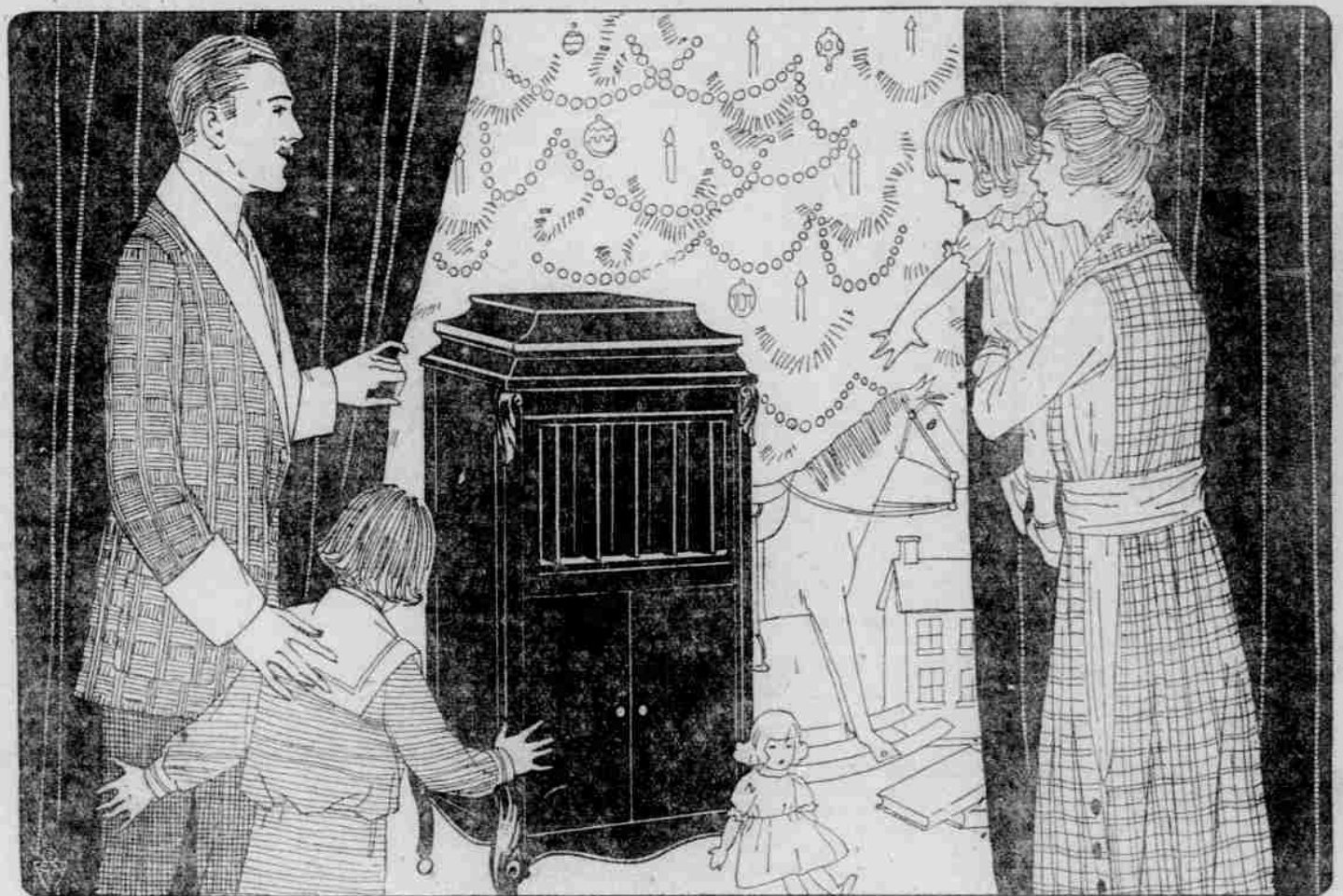
The eighth troop of the Boy Scouts of America will be organized Thursday night at Trinity Episcopal church, Nineteenth street and Sixth avenue. The company will be organized under the supervision of Charles F. McKinley.

The scouts will tonight form in a body and march to Augustana gymnasium, where they will attend the patriotic mass meeting. They will be joined by the troops from Moline and in all will make a fine showing when they parade into the auditorium.

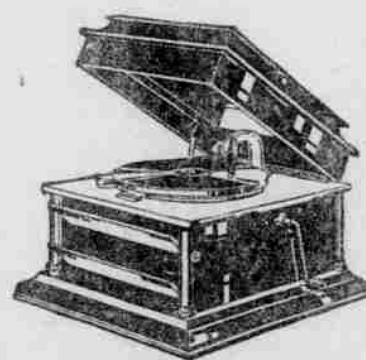
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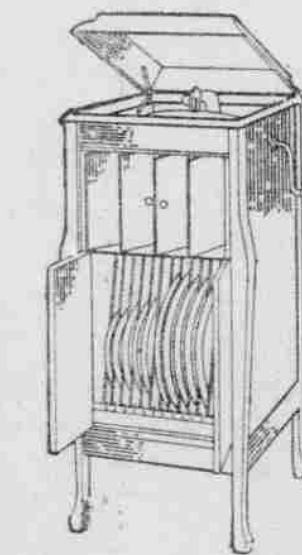
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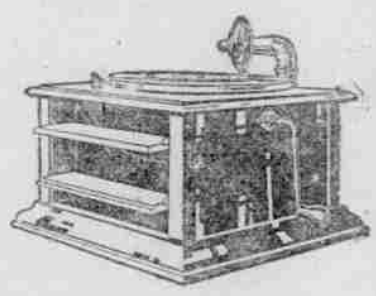
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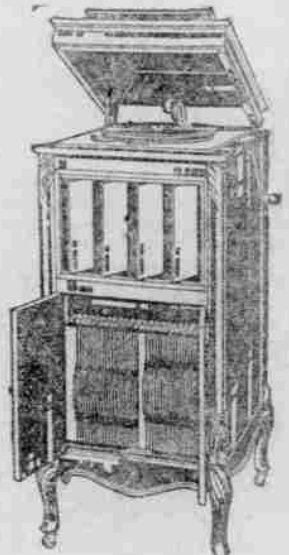
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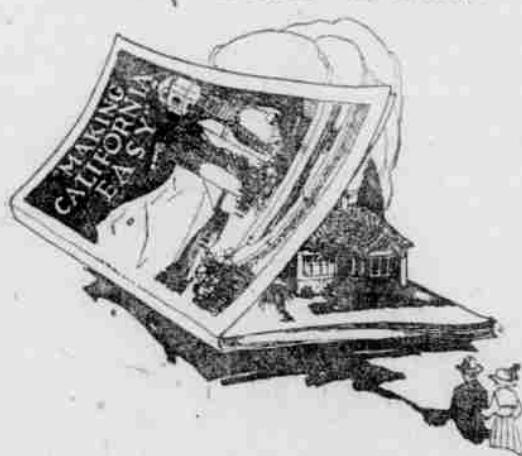
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